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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

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CURRY RESIGNS
PG.5

**WHATS COMING
TO CALVERT**
PG. 8

**PATUXENT HIGH
STABBING**
PG. 10

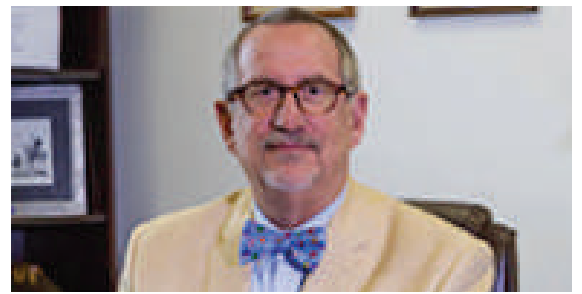
*Playwright Debuts
Dickens Adaptation*

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FEATURE 11
Ghost Before Christmas Playwright Rick Thompson (center) discusses script changes with lead actor William Righter (l) and Director Sid Curl.



LOCAL 5
Curry to retire






ENTERTAINMENT 17
Hearth and Home for the Holidays

“IT IS TIME I TRY SOMETHING ELSE.”
SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DR. DANIEL CURRY ON HIS PENDING RETIREMENT.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 11/18	Fri 11/19	Sat 11/20	Sun 11/21
73° 38°F	50° 34°F	51° 41°F	57° 46°F
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy
Mon 11/22	Tue 11/23	Wed 11/24	Thu 11/25
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Public Hearing Held on Chesapeake Beach Plan

Businesses Criticize Development Restrictions



By Dick Myers
Editor

The public hearing by the Chesapeake Beach Planning and Zoning Commission on the proposed town comprehensive plan update featured a dozen speakers and much criticism of it by two of the town's largest businesses. Representatives of the Rod 'N Reel and Abner's Crab House chided the plan for its impacts on their businesses and their growth plans.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Jakubiak at the Nov. 9 public hearing said of the proposed plan, "It recommends zoning changes that would ultimately reduce the possibility of future housing to about 55 more dwelling units within the town."

Mary Latham, of the Donovan family that owns the Rod 'N Reel, said, "It really seems you have gone out of your way to target our properties and our businesses."

The company in January of this year submitted five projects with 11 townhouse, 24 condominium, 148 apartment units, and one single-family unit. Most of the development would occur around a marina near the Chesapeake Beach Water Park.

The town imposed a moratorium on multi-family development to block the projects until the planning and zoning commission finished its work on the plan rewrite. That moratorium has since been extended.

Latham said, "Much of this property has been in our family for decades. The proposed devel-

opments have been the subject of over 30 years of planning. We took steps to develop the properties in light of current zoning."

She added, "We followed the plans set forth, played by the rules, and the rules of the game have changed."

The company's attorney Eric Blitz said of the plan attitude towards development "The gates are now closed."

Blitz referred to a Baltimore Sun article in the 1990's on the state's Smart Growth Plan, in which Chesapeake and North Beach were touted as welcoming development in a county famous for restricting growth. He said the town centers were intended to be places for growth, yet the proposed plan is "a 180-degree reversal" of that.

Professional engineer Anthony Olekson, representing Abner's, said the plan has changed several parcels owned by his client from Marine Commercial zoning to Resource Conservation, including property being used for aquaculture.

Several members of the town's Green Team also spoke at the hearing and the team made some change recommendations.

Prior to the public comments, Jakubiak included a summary of some of the key parts of the plan. He said, "First, there's guidance on addressing flooding and sea level rise. Sea level rise is happening in town and the future looks to see more flooding. So, we're going to have a plan that addresses sea level rise."

Blitz said the plan's concerns about flooding were misguided because they fail to consider the mitigation that bulkheading can provide.

Jakubiak also explained of the plan, "It seeks to protect forested areas, steep slopes, and wetlands from development activities."

In addition to reduction of future housing, he said, "it recommends more sidewalks and recreational trails and an overall increase in the safety and convenience of walking. It recommends the town acquire land for parks and improve recreational offerings generally. It recommends extending municipal water and sewer to parts of the town that are not now served, that are operating with private wells and septic, but only as opportunities arrive for public health benefits or for envi-

ronmental benefits."

And he added a point often mentioned by the planners: "It recommends protecting the small-town character of Chesapeake Beach."

Blitz contended his client's proposals would contribute to a more walkable town.

Planning and Zoning Chairman Larry Brown noted that his commission would review comments received and then forward a recommendation to the town council, which has the final say. Brown observed that the comprehensive plan is only a guideline for the zoning ordinance, which implements it. That ordinance will also be updated by the commission.

For more information on the proposed plan and to review comments, go to <https://www.planchesapeakebeachmd.gov/>

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School Superintendent to Retire

Search Firm to be Hired

By Dick Myers
Editor

Calvert County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Daniel Curry says he is retiring at the end of the school year next July 1. Curry made the announcement at the Nov. 11 school board meeting. He said he had informed the school board of his decision in September.

Curry said after 48 years in education, including 34 years as a superintendent, "It is time I try something else."

School Board President Inez Claggett said they would solicit proposals for a search firm to begin the process of finding the new superintendent. She said she hoped it would not take any longer than six or seven months so the new superintendent can be on board before Curry leaves, "to insure a smooth transition."

As part of the process, Claggett said, "will be a plan for stakeholder input."

Claggett thanked Curry for his "seven, almost eight years" of service in Calvert County.

She said, "Our goal will be to retain the service of an exceptionally skilled



Calvert County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Daniel Curry

leader who will build on the district's legacy of excellence and help us to ensure we have a school system where every child is afforded an equitable opportunity to succeed."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Commissioners Require Their Boards to Get Public Comment

School Board Not Covered by Change

By Dick Myers
Editor

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has adopted a change in the county code to require their appointed boards and commissions to provide an opportunity for public comment at meetings. The BOCC held a public hearing on the proposal at their Nov. 16 meeting. No one testified at the hearing. The approval was unanimous.

County Attorney John Norris wrote in a memo to the BOCC: "This board directed that county citizens be afforded a wide range of opportunities to influence the making of public policy. Public comment is one means to inform the decision-making process."

Norris said, "Presently, many of the more than 50 board and committees appointed by the Board of County Commissioners do not make provision for public comment within their agenda. An appropriate amendment to Chapter 11 of the Code of Ordinances is the most efficient means of mandating provision for public comment where within the board's jurisdiction."

Norris prepared a draft ordinance for the commissioners to approve. After closing the record, the commissioners voted to enact the ordinance.

The decision comes amidst consid-

erable public outcry over the Calvert County Board of Education limiting public input at their regular meetings to 10 speakers. Commissioner Chris Gadway at the meeting voted against two school system budget amendments in protest to the continuing policy.

Before the pandemic the school board had not limited public comment. While meeting virtually they only allowed email comments but since returning to in-person meetings, the majority has limited comments to the 10 speakers. Several attempts by members Pat Nutter and Dawn Balinski to overturn the policy have failed by 3-2 votes.

Board President Inez Claggett has contended the board has the right to limit comments because it's a business meeting. She says the state board of education does the same thing.

Norris was asked during the Nov. 16 public hearing if the school board would come under the new regulations. He said they didn't. They were covered by a section of state education law.

Gadway noted that the commissioners fund the school board, so didn't that matter. Norris said it didn't, that the commissioners had no control over the school board's meeting policies.

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School Budget Savings Go to OPEB, Fund Balance

Pandemic Savings Exceed \$10 Million

By Dick Myers
Editor

The pandemic did have one positive unintended consequence for Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS). It helped their fiscal bottom line.

According to Chief Financial Officer Edith Hutchins, "At the end of FY 2021, Calvert County Public Schools' revenues exceeded expenditures by \$10,098,826.09. These funds rolled to the unassigned fund balance at the end of the fiscal year."

In the previous fiscal year, the school board had used just about all of its fund balance to balance the budget, leaving just 19 cents in it. So, the savings in the last fiscal year will help replenish that fiscal reserve.

The savings were accrued during the pandemic from not having buses transporting students and not having to hire substitute teachers, among other things.

Hutchins reported to the school board at their Nov. 11 meeting,

"The four-year funding formula agreement signed by the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners in FY 2017 contained a provision regarding Calvert County Public Schools' unassigned fund balance. The provision stipulated that 'any unassigned fund balance in excess of \$5 million will be contributed to the OPEB trust fund for the benefit of the Board of Education.'"

The OPEB Trust Fund, or Other Post-Employment Benefits, is the reserve used to pay for future retiree health care costs.

So that fund will be replenished by \$5,098,408.00, leaving the remainder in the fund balance.

Hutchins also reported the school system will be getting a \$1.2 million rebate from Blue Cross/Blue Shield due to health care cost savings. That rebate will be enough to add to previous year savings to allow for a health care premium holiday for school system employees, probably in January or February.



Commissioner Chris Gadway

In addition to the operational savings, Hutchins reported the school system received more than \$12 million in federal grants for pandemic relief.

Hutchins and School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry appeared at the Nov. 16 county commissioners' meeting to get approval to increase their budget to reflect \$7.6 million of those grants.

Commissioner Chris Gadway questioned one of the grants, "Achieving Academic Equity for Black Boys," a \$77,000 grant. Gadway wanted to know why the monies were just being used for one class of student and not all students.

Curry explained that the grants were targeted to a population that has been historically underperforming, for whatever reason.

The monies will be used for teacher training. Curry said some teachers may be unwittingly bringing their biases in addressing the needs of that student population.

Gadway voted against two school budget transfers, in protest to the school board continuing to limit public participation at their meetings (see separate story).

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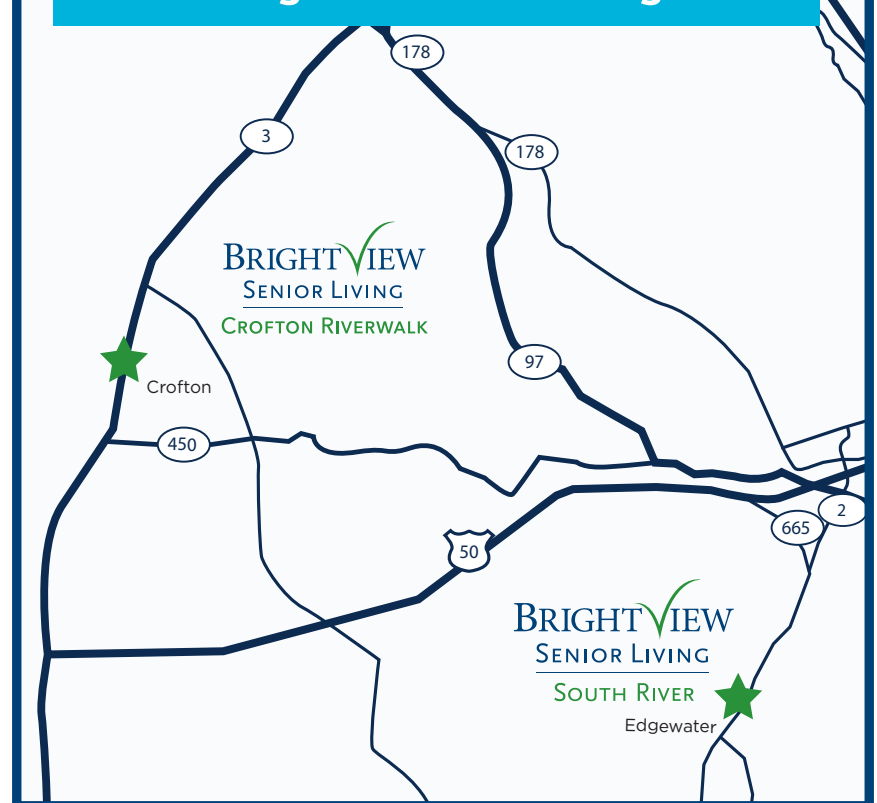
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Strand Appointed Director of Finance & Budget

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Sharon Strand as the county government director of the Department of Finance & Budget. Strand has extensive experience in both the government and private sectors. Most recently, she held a leadership role with Calvert County Government as the deputy director of accounting where she focused on managing accounting operations, preparing financial reports and overseeing data in accounting systems and financial reporting for accuracy, integrity and compliance.



Sharon Strand

“Sharon has moved up the ranks of Calvert County Government, proving her expertise time and time again in financial accountability and reporting,” said BOCC President Earl F. “Buddy” Hance. “We are pleased to have her level of expertise contributing to maintaining a high level of fiscal responsibility on behalf of Calvert County citizens.”

“Sharon is an excellent selection for this position, as she has worked many years with Calvert County Government and also brings experience from the private sector,” said County Administrator Mark Willis. “Her leadership skills, experience in finance and collaborative approach will be a tremendous asset to Calvert County Government, the BOCC and citizens.”

Prior to joining Calvert County Government, Strand worked in the accounting field for a prominent property management company for 18 years. She joined the county government in 2008 as a capital projects analyst, was promoted in 2010 to accounting supervisor and again in 2018 to deputy director of accounting. Strand holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from University of Maryland and is a member of the national and local Government Finance Officers Association. She has resided in Calvert County since 2001 and currently lives in Saint Leonard with her husband and family.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

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8x15	\$5.60	16x20	\$14.00
8x18	\$6.70	20x20	\$17.50
8x20	\$7.45	20x30	\$26.25
9x12	\$5.05	20x35	\$30.60
10x12	\$5.60	20x40	\$35.00
10x15	\$7.00	24x36	\$36.20
10x16	\$7.45	25x45	\$47.15
10x20	\$8.75	30x40	\$50.30
12x12	\$6.70	30x60	\$68.75
12x14	\$7.35	40x50	\$76.35
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12x20	\$10.50		

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10x15	\$13.90	40x60	\$184.50
10x20	\$18.50		
12x12	\$13.35		
12x16	\$17.75		
12x20	\$22.20		
12x25	\$27.75		
15x20	\$27.75		
15x25	\$34.70		
16x20	\$29.60		
20x20	\$35.45		
20x25	\$44.35		
20x30	\$53.20		
20x35	\$62.05		
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12x12	\$18.20	30x50	\$157.25
12x16	\$24.25	30x60	\$188.70
12x20	\$30.30	40x60	\$251.60
12x25	\$36.25		

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What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Nov. 17 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.

1) SPR-2018-286, **Calvert Gateway**, Lot 4, located at 10825 Town Center Boulevard, Dunkirk, on a 4.3 acre lot, zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed 15,890 square foot building for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. This project is on private water and sewer. The submittal was accepted December 19, 2018. Agent: Bay Engineering.

2) SPR-2020-315, **Dunkirk District Park-Tennis Courts/Parking Lot**, located at 10750 Southern Maryland Boulevard, Dunkirk, on one parcel consisting of 81.42 acres, zoned Dunkirk Town Center. The submittal proposes additional amenities and parking to the existing public park. Scope of the project consists of three groups of tennis courts, parking lot and an ADA accessible restroom building in the back portion of the park. Also being proposed is a new on-site septic system, connection to existing on-site water well and site electrical service for lighting the tennis courts and parking lot. The submittal was accepted October 28, 2020. Agent: WBCM

3) CSPR-138210, **First Lutheran Church Addition**, located at 6300 Southern Maryland Boulevard, Huntingtown, currently on one parcel consisting of 5.6 acres, zoned RCD. An approved Replat with a second parcel owned by the Church, will bring the total acreage to 8.1 for the proposed project. The submittal proposes construction of a one story 2,900 square foot addition with basement to the existing church. Existing classroom trailer will be removed upon completion of this project. The submittal was accepted March 24, 2021. Agent: Wilkerson & Associates

4) CSPR-138164, **Prince Frederick Crossing**, Phase 4, located at 30 Thoroughbred Drive, Prince Frederick, on 2.3 acres zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, Forest District. The proposed project includes 20 townhouse units and a future commercial area to be developed at a later date. The submittal was accepted March 24, 2021. Agent: Bay Engineering

5) CSPR-138234, **Lynco Flex Space**, CCIP Lot 45C, located at 65 Jibsail Drive, Prince Frederick, on Lot 45C of Calvert County Industrial Park, consisting of 208 acres, Zoned I-1. The project proposes a 9,000 square foot Flex Space facility and associated improvements on the site. The submittal was accepted April 28, 2021. Agent: Collinson, Oliff &

Associates

(6) SPR-138176, **Armory Square**, located at 435 North Solomons Island Road, Prince Frederick on 12.95 acres, Zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. This project proposes approximately 109,050 square feet of new commercial buildings, parking lots, utilities and related infrastructure. The submittal resumed agency review May 5, 2021. Agent: Barrett & Associates

7) CSPR-138218, **Barstow Convenience Center**, located at 340 Stafford Road, Prince Frederick on three separate parcels consisting of 83.07 acres, Zoned RCD/EC. The project proposes replacement of the existing recycling center with a new facility that includes improved customer parking, vehicular circulation and separating public vehicles from County vehicles. Site utilities will be connected to services currently supplying the existing maintenance building. The submittal was accepted June 23, 2021. Agent: WBCM

8) CSPR-138320, **Dunkirk Gateway Business Center**, Lot 11, located at 10375 Town Center Boulevard, Dunkirk on 2.66 acres, Zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed 10,395 square foot building for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. This project is on private water and sewer. The submittal was accepted July 28, 2021. Agent: Bay Engineering

9) SPR-142728, **Lusby Villas**, located at 11770, Lusby Parkway, Lusby on 26.23 acres, Zoned Lusby Town Center, Village Residential Office District. Proposed 276 Multi-Family Apartment Units, community center, associated parking lots, utilities and related infrastructure. This project is on public water and sewer. The submittal was accepted September 22, 2021. Agent: Barrett & Associates

10) SPR-142731, **Cove Point LNG Commuter Parking Lot & Warehouse**, Lot 5R, Patuxent Business Park, located at 85 Anchorage Lane, Lusby on 7.2 acres, Zoned Light Industrial. Proposed 28,000 square foot building to house a small security office, space/training room and large indoor warehouse, along with paving of the existing gravel commuter parking lot that will be utilized for annual LNG Plant outages for contractor parking. The submittal was accepted September 22, 2021. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

11) CSPR-142742, **Magnolia Ridge**, located at the corner of Dares Beach Road and Fox Run Boulevard, Prince Frederick on 31.20 acres, Zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, Village District. Proposed 96 multi-family apartment units and 164 townhouse units with associated site improvements. This project is on public water & sewer. The submittal was accepted October 28, 2021. Agent: Barrett & Associates.

Women's Commission Seeks Award Nominees

It is that time of year when the Calvert County Commission for Women (CCCW) sends out a call to all Calvert Citizens to submit nominations for its Outstanding Achievement Awards in the categories of Service, Advocacy, Business Leadership and/or a Woman of Tomorrow.

Each year, the Calvert County Commission for Women (CCCW) recognizes Calvert County women – and a Woman of Tomorrow age 20 or younger – who are models of outstanding achievement and have made significant contributions to our community. The commission urges you to nominate a Calvert woman or girl who meets the criteria for these important awards. The Nomination Form may be

found on the CCCW Website at: <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/672/Commission-for-Women>

The Commission for Women will honor its awardees at the 19th Annual Calvert County WOW (Women of the World) Awards during a virtual celebration on Saturday, March 12th, 2022. Last year there were close to 200 people who participated in this celebration. CCCW honorees will also receive individual proclamations highlighting their accomplishments and impact from the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and other political representatives.

We look forward to receiving your nominations!

Press Release from CCCW.

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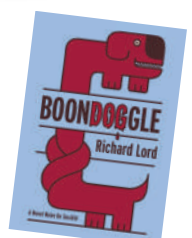
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Read the overview of the 7th District community service organizations.

Also read about the novel BoonDOGgle at www.BoonDOGgle.dog



Patuxent High School Stabbing

As of press deadline on Tuesday Nov. 16, the Calvert County Sheriff's Office was investigating "a stabbing at Patuxent High School in Lusby. One suspect is in custody. There is no threat to the public at this time. The investigation is ongoing."



This is a developing story. Please check our Facebook page for updates.

Hawkins Sentenced for Sex Abuse

Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey announced that on Nov. 5 Wilbur Richard Hawkins, Jr., 39, received 18 years incarceration for the sexual abuse of two minor children, ages 8 and 13.

On March 16, 2020, the victims reported the abuse to detectives at the Calvert County Sheriff's Office. A one-party consent phone call was initiated between the victims and the Defendant. During the call, Hawkins admitted to the abuse. He was arrested and ultimately confessed to Detectives William Rector and Wayne Wells.



Wilbur Richard Hawkins, Jr.

Upon his release from prison, Hawkins will be required to register as a sex offender for life and will be on lifetime supervision by the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca N. Cordero.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney's Office.

CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

During the week of November 1 – November 7, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,306 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 21-61715

On November 1, 2021, Deputy Mason responded to the 2000 block of Baythorne Road in Prince Frederick, MD in reference to a destruction of property. The complainant advised unknown suspects spray-painted her mailbox. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1500.00.

Damaged Property: 21-61631

On November 1, 2021, DFC R. Shrawder responded to a residence in the 12900 block of Rousby Hall Rd in Lusby, MD for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised three tires on two separate vehicles were slashed in the overnight hours on Oct. 31, while parked outside the residence. The total value of damaged property is \$360.00.

Damaged Property: 21-62179

On November 4, 2021, S/DFC Mitchell responded to Cove Point Park located at 750 Cove Point Road in Lusby, MD in reference to destruction of property. The complainant advised sometime between 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Nov. 3, unknown suspect(s) vandalized the bathroom in the concession stand by spray-painting vulgar images and phrases. The total value of damaged property is \$200.00.

Damaged Property: 21-62660

On November 6, 2021, Deputy Krueger responded to the 600 block of Gunsmoke Trail in Lusby, MD for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised sometime between 10 a.m. on Nov. 5 and 1:15 p.m. on Nov. 6, unknown suspect(s) smashed the driver's side window out of his vehicle with a pumpkin. The estimated value of damaged property is \$250.00.

Theft: 21-62067

On November 3, 2021, Cpl. Jacobs responded to an apartment in the 200 block of Shores Acres Way in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of a theft. The complainant advised on Nov. 2 at 3 p.m., her Insta Cart groceries were delivered to her apartment per photo confirmation and when the victim returned home, her groceries were gone. The approximate value of stolen property is unknown at this time.

Theft: 21-62323

On November 4, 2021, Cpl. O'Donnell responded to the Vintage Values store located at 100 S. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, MD for report of a theft. The complainant advised unknown suspect(s) removed four large trash bags filled with miscellaneous

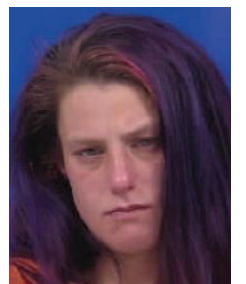
clothing from the loading dock. The estimated value of stolen property is \$100.00.

Vehicle Tampering: 21-62010

On November 3, 2021, DFC Childress responded to report of a vehicle tampering at Patuxent High School located at 12485 Southern Connector Blvd. in Lusby, MD. The complainant advised unknown suspect(s) entered his personal vehicle on Nov. 2 during normal school hours. The victim advised upon returning to his vehicle, an odor of burnt marijuana was emitting from inside the car and discovered ashes on the seat. Items were in a disarray throughout the vehicle and the cup holder was wet. Nothing was reported stolen.

ARRESTS

On November 5, 2021 Deputy Aranda responded to the Walmart located at 10600 Town Center Blvd. in Dunkirk, MD for the report of a theft. Contact was made with the Loss Prevention Manager who advised a female removed an energy drink from the refrigerator without paying. The female suspect was observed with multiple purses in hand and other items sticking out of her pockets with Walmart tags attached. The female suspect originally provided a false name, but was later identified as **Norma Roma Greene**, 29 of Upper Marlboro, MD. A search as a result of her arrest revealed a glass pipe with a white residue containing suspected cocaine in addition to a Gemstone ring, an anniversary ring and a wedding ring set. The total value of stolen items was \$31.96.



Norma Roma Greene

Greene was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and while being processed a glass container containing suspected cocaine fell from her person. Greene was charged with Theft Less Than \$100, CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana, CDC: Possession of Paraphernalia, Fraudulent-Per Identification to Avoid Persecution, Possession of CDS While Confined, Obstructing and Hindering and False Statement to a Peace Officer.

Editor's Note: The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.



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Holiday Farm Guide Accepting Listings



The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is now accepting listings for the 2021 edition of the 'Holiday Farm Guide'.

SMADC's Holiday Farm Guide connects consumers with regional farms and producers, as well as stores and restaurants that offer Southern Maryland grown and produced farm products and services during the holiday season and through the winter months.

Featured guide categories include locally grown Christmas trees, holiday trimmings and firewood, meats and poultry, eggs, cheese, seafood, produce, baked goods, jams and jellies, clothing and accessories made with local yarns and fiber, wine, beer and spirits, plus farm-hosted holiday

events, tours and tastings and regional 'winter' farmers markets operating during the holidays.

Southern Maryland region farms, seafood and aquaculture producers, wineries, breweries, distilleries, stores and restaurants and other businesses that produce or offer Southern Maryland farm products are encouraged to submit a holiday listing. There is no charge to be listed. Find the online application under 'News and Events' on the SMADC website. Listing submissions are due by October 15, 2021.

The 2020 Southern Maryland Holiday Farm Guide will be available to view or download (in early November) on the 'Get Our Guides' page at www.SMADC.com.

Press Release from SMADC.

Vets Honored with Quilts



Pictured left to right: Dennis Hackathorn (Navy, 26 years), Frank Santiago (Navy, 30 years), Chris Wilcox (Air Force, 6 years), Harold Grider (Navy, 20 years), Joe Dziewit (Navy, 23 years) and Dan Bogan (Navy, 31 years).

In observance of Veterans Day, PAX Sound of Freedom, on behalf of Quilts of Valor, presented quilts to active-duty personnel and military veterans at two locations over the weekend.

On Saturday six members of the Knights of Columbus from St. George's Catholic Church in Valley Lee, MD, were presented with Quilts of Valor by Gerry and Sylvia Lague, group leaders for PAX Sound of Freedom.

After church services on Sunday, active duty, military veterans and retirees of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church in Lusby were also honored by PAX Sound of Freedom with Quilts of Valor (Gerry and Sylvia, group leaders). Jerre Stephens, a member of PAX Sound of Freedom and a member of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran

Church, wanted to honor the members of her church who had served in the military or were currently serving. It took her six months to complete 30 quilts for her project.

Numerous church members not at the presentation will be awarded their quilts when they return to church after military or personal commitments.

Please note: If you, a family member or friend served in the U.S. armed forces, you are entitled to receive a Quilt of Valor. The only stipulation is that quilts must be awarded in person to the service member. Please contact PAX Sound of Freedom group leaders, Gerry and Sylvia Lague, at (941) 705-0094.

Press Release from PAX Sound of Freedom.

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Front row, left to right: Chuck Fick (Air Force, 7 years), Jose Escobar (Marines, 1 year), Robin Olson (Navy, 26 years), Richard Staddon (Army, 21 years), Mitchell Krauss (Navy, 24 years), Dan Hedegaard (Navy, 20 years), Lee Bassett (Marines, 22 years), and Dan Severson (Navy, 6 years).
Back row, left to right: Travis Grah (Navy, 9 years), Don Underwood (Marines, 12 years), Lindsay Underwood (Navy, 11 years), Dale Feddersen (Navy, 21 years), John Wotton (Army, 5 years), Troy Christensen (Air Force, 8 years), Brian Hoerning (Navy, 20 years), and Jason Grein (Navy, 6 years).

Calvert Playwright Debuts

To be Performed by Twin Beach Players

By Dick Myers
Editor

The Christmas Carol is quintessentially Christmas. Adapted countless times for stage and screen, the Charles Dickens novella first published in 1843 was an instant hit and has never been out of print.

This writer saw it at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC and that same venue is presenting it this year beginning Nov. 26.

The story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come warms the heart as Scrooge becomes a kinder, gentler soul, the true spirit of Christmas. As a matter of fact, the greeting Merry Christmas, while spoken before the publication of the Christmas Carol, became more widely used thereafter.

Most people, however, are unaware the Christmas Carol wasn't Charles Dickens' only Christmas work. That included Rick Thompson. The Prince Frederick resident with a local theatrical resume that spans more than 50 years, was browsing a bookstore several years ago, when he came upon "a two-inch thick book of 'A Christmas Carol and Other Writings,' and they were all by Charles Dickens. I was rather surprised to find out that he had written five Christmas novels, 13 short stories, and four more short stories as a coauthor, all Christmas stuff."

He got around to reading it several months after Christmas. He liked some and didn't like others but was particularly taken with "A Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain: A Fancy for Christmas Time."

"I started turning it over in my head and developing out the plot line," Thompson related, "which is basically Dickens, but I've made some changes to it. I completed my first draft in August of 2017. It's been much changed since then."

Thompson had written two plays previously that have been performed by local community theater. One won a prize at the Watermelon Festival at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

But with an adaptation of a novella by such a famous author, could this be the one that really has legs. Time will tell and the time begins the day after Thanksgiving with the debut of the play that Thompson calls "The Ghost Before Christmas." Dickens title, he said



sounded too much like Halloween for a Christmas play.

It's being directed by local theater veteran Sid Curl. He told The County Times, "This will be the seventh play that I've taken from the beginning of just paper and brought it to the floors. So, it's a development process of catching the audience's ear and giving them the opportunity to pay attention to what is going on from the playwright's mind as he presents it. So, you hope that the playwright has put the words into the right order, that the audience can decipher it and carry away from this, a story of Christmas, another Dickens' tale that brings another ghost out into the open of declaring that all should have a Merry Christmas and Merry Christmas to all."

As to having the author by his side, Curl said, "The dynamic has been good because we've worked very closely about developing dialogue and all that. And so, I've been working with him for over a year on this also."

Curl added about Thompson, "As far as working with him as a playwright, he's been great. He has an understanding that he's got to get his audience's attention into it, to understand what's going on. And so, he fights for that. He fights for audience's attention."

The theater didn't immediately grab Thompson's attention, even though he was born in Brooklyn and grew up on Long Island. "I never thought of it. We weren't at the financial strata that we could hit that. It never crossed my mind. I didn't do my first play until when I was a senior in high school (in Levittown, Pa.) I played the part of the professor in South Pacific. I

was kind of drug into it by my girlfriend at the time. I switched over to English when I was in college. I started as a history major. That's when I really got into it. And the first play I directed was when I was student teaching (first semester in college)."

After graduating he took a teaching job in St. Mary's County and "part of my job was I taught English and speech and drama, and I did some stuff with St. Mary's community theater."

He wound up in a long career in journalism in St. Mary's, Prince George's and Calvert counties.

But he also stuck with community theater, acting, set design, producing, directing and of course most recently play writing.

He and his wife, who he met at St. Mary's College, moved to Calvert in 1977 when he was editor of the Bowie Blade newspaper.

What's the fascination with the theater that has kept him in all aspects of it for more than 50 years? "The same reason you go into anything," he explained. "It just looks like fun. I'll try that for a while. And it was, and so I kept doing it. You like the challenges to it, and you just get better at it. I like to think I've gotten better at it."

He added, though, "Now as far as writing, I never thought of writing anything. I was going to do a research book about the Washington Naval Conference of 1921, but everything went digital at the libraries. I guess my aha moment for that wasn't going to happen was when I was researching something else at the McKeldin Library at the University of Maryland, and they had these new viewers for the microfilms and the librarians couldn't

figure out how to use it."

So, he said, "I decided, I'm going to try something totally different. I'm going to do just stuff that I can create out of my head. And so, the first play I wrote was basically a one-person thing called "The Helpless Director Zone."

It won Audience Choice at the festival at St. Mary's College, and it was the only time he made any money off of doing theater.

"The Beauty of Natural Love" was the other one he has written; it's been performed at festivals.

He chose the Twin Beach Players to perform the debut of "The Ghost Before Christmas" because it "has a long history of producing original, never-produced works. In fact, the Halloween show for 2021, Frankenstein, was first produced by Twin Beach Players in 2012."

Thompson said his play is totally unrelated to "The Christmas Carol." He said, "The only thing they have in common is that there is a spirit involved. And however, in this case, there's only one, not three."

He has written it to be contemporary to the Dickens era. The research was made somewhat easier with the internet, but he added, "I still had to get into the musty old books sometimes that were actually maps of the city of London."

Dickens essentially took the Christmas Carol on the road, Thompson said.

"He made his money really off of Christmas Carol, not so much from the book because he printed it very elaborately. It had gilded pages, color illustrations, and for the going price for that kind of book, he hardly made any money off of it, even though it sold out very quick-

Charles Dickens Adaptation



Ghost Before Christmas Playwright Rick Thompson (center) discusses script changes with lead actor William Righter (l) and Director Sid Curl.

ly. Where he made his money was doing readings from it.”

Thompson said, “Christmas Carol is a crackling good story. It’s a wonderful story. But so is The Haunted Man or the Ghost Before Christmas, because it has what I call a bottom. It’s about something. Christmas Carol is a story about redemption. Ghost before Christmas/Haunted Man is about forgiveness.”

Thompson explained he gave Dickens main character Redlaw a first name – Pericles.

“He is a very dour man who only thinks about the bad things that have happened to him, including the death of his sister from tuberculosis, what they called then the consumption. And he has a painting of her hanging on his wall that he makes sure it’s always lit that we can look at it.”

And Thompson goes on to explain, “one night he (Redlaw) is visited by a spirit, only one, who offers him a bargain that I have the power to banish all of your bad memories, and the professor thinks this over and he wants to know, what else will I lose? And the spirit tells him that you will have no knowledge gained from only those bad memories.”

The rest, he said, is for the playgoer to find out.

“Dickens had some moral points he wanted to make, and they’re still made, but you know, the whole thing is about forgiveness.”

Thompson said Dickens would surely recognize his work in Thompson’s adaptation. He would say, “I don’t recognize the ending, but I recognize all the rest of it. I recognize that basic storyline, it’s there.”

Dickens’ works after all these

years are in the public domain and available for any adaptation, Thompson said.

As to the future of his work, Thompson said, “There’s no way of knowing.” He pointed to a “can’t miss” adaptation of the hit movie Breakfast at Tiffany’s. It starred Richard Chamberlain and Mary Tyler Moore “who were hot as hot can be. a score by Bob Merrill, who had done Carnival. He had like three Tony’s to his credit for music and lyrics. It was directed by Abe Burrows.” It bombed. “It never got out of previews.”

Thompson said Curl is directing because they know each other. “I know him, he knows me. He has been known to snap at me. I’ve been known to snap at him. We get along; he’s trying to stay within my overall concept, but he’s doing a lot of things that were different than I never thought of. And, you know, I’ve in a couple of cases had to talk to them about it, but, in most of them, I said, that’s kind of cool.”

Of all of the things Thompson’s done in theater, which does he like the best? “I would put acting at the bottom of the list,” he said, “because it’s just a personal preference. I’m one of the few directors to come out of tech. So, I liked directing, I like the give and take of the collaboration and theater is a collaborative art.”

Upon reflection, he added, “It’s probably tied between director and writing because they both have their moments of pure slavery.”

There are differences between writing a play and scripting a movie, he said. “You can’t have two real complicated tech-heavy scenes right up against each other. We’ve got a whole bunch of props and scenery scattered all over the



place. Wouldn’t work because it would take too long to do the set change. And in a movie script, we just say ‘cut.’”

Or “You can’t have a character onstage at the end of a scene. And then onstage the beginning of the next scene in a totally different costume, because you have to have time for the costume change.”

Thompson said, “There are things even I overlook and the nice thing about being a playwright is that you are God in your own little kingdom; nobody says anything, or does anything, unless you say they’re going to say that, or they’re going to do that. And so that’s the nice thing about being the writer, but you have to take care about what you’re asking for. Don’t ask us for the sun, the moon, and the stars; settle for the moon or the stars or the sun, or it’s going to be outrageously expensive.”

As to any future success for his play, Thompson said, “I just want people to come out and see the show and enjoy it. That’s all I’m asking for now, have fun, enjoy it.”

The Ghost Before Christmas will be performed by Twin Beach Players at the Boys and Girls Club in North Beach Nov. 26-Dec. 12; Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Cast of “The Ghost Before Christmas”

The Man:

Rick Thompson

Pericles Redlaw:

William Righter

William Swidger:

Robert Sebo

Mrs. William

(Millie Swidger):

Terri McKinstry

Phillip Swidger:

Robert Rausch

The Phantom:

Alexys Adams

Spirit Redlaw:

Caleb Graves-Reher

Spirit Prudence:

Sarah Mixon

Spirit Longford:

Jack Mozingo

Andrew Tetterby:

Aidan Davis

Mary Tetterby:

Mary Evans

Mick Tetterby:

Kaden Owen

Sally Tetterby:

Alexandra Moyerman

Mrs. Sophia Tetterby:

Katie Evans

Adolphus Tetterby:

Seth Spangler

Edmund Denham:

Ilya Jonas

Mr. Heathfield:

Victor Villafaha

Mrs. Heathfield:

Rose Jiménez

The Child:

Charlie Villafaha

George Swidger:

Caleb Graves-Reher

Mrs. Ralston:

Teagan Smylie

Mrs. Nichols:

Audra Vernier

Robert Longford:

Jack Mozingo

Hannah Woolsey:

Sarah Mixon

Mrs. Warrick:

Rose Jiménez

Carolers/Townpeople:

Sylvia Swartz, Sophia Starkey, Lacey Shreiner, Michael Evans, Juliet Garrett, Charlotte Garrett, Teagan Smylie, Sarah Mixon

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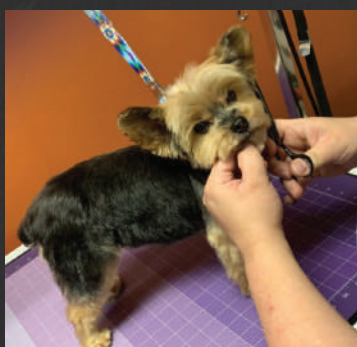
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CSM Graduates Earn High School Diplomas

College of Southern Maryland (CSM) faculty and staff were joined by the friends and family of 24 Adult Education Program graduates Nov. 10 to celebrate the students for returning to school and earning their Maryland high school diplomas. The commencement festivities were held in person at the La Plata Campus.

CSM's Adult Education Program provides basic education classes to adults that cover all areas of basic reading, writing and math to prepare students for the GED test or the National External Diploma Program. The program also offers English as a Second Language classes to provide basic English language and life skills instruction for adults whose native language is not English. The CSM Adult Education Program is supported through grant funding by the Maryland Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Education, and local funding. Because of this funding, most classes are free.

"You did it!" CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy said to the graduates during her commencement address. "I am thrilled to be the first to congratulate you this evening on achieving your diploma. For many of you, this is a moment that perhaps you thought was an impossible dream; but, yet, it was a dream that inspired you to stretch yourself. And, now look at you! You have achieved your dream, and even more, you have inspired others who have watched you, coached you, and are here to celebrate

your success. On behalf of the college's dedicated team and Adult Education staff, we are delighted to help make your dreams become your reality."

Murphy went on to surprise the family of graduate Psalms Wilson, of Prince Frederick.

"Before we go any further in the program, I want to take a minute to recognize former CSM Vice President Dr. Richard Fleming, who before his retirement worked tirelessly with the college's Continuing Education and Workforce Development Program to make the college the provider for the Adult Basic Education/General Education Diploma (GED) program in Calvert and St. Mary's counties," said Murphy, who explained that CSM expanded to offer the program in Charles County a few years ago. "Dr. Fleming was dedicated to the program and the students who were brave enough to return to school and complete their high school work – that he established a scholarship to be awarded to a Calvert County graduate. We are grateful to Dr. Fleming for his lasting gift to our students. And tonight, we are thrilled to announce that Psalms Wilson will be receiving \$250 scholarship to continue her studies at CSM."

The president then surprised all of the students when she announced that every one of them would be receiving a \$500 scholarship to continue their education at CSM.

Referring to the graduates as 'trailblazers,' Maryland Department of Labor Office



of Adult Education and Literacy Services Director and keynote speaker Terry R. Gilleland, Jr. praised the graduates for their accomplishments.

"You are here today because of your determination, your passion, your hard work," said Gilleland said. "While you did the heavy lifting, there are key people in your lives that helped you along this path, including the great instructors here at CSM. And as you say thank you to those wonderful people, my request is that you pay it forward."

"Being here today, you've proven that anything is possible when you put your heart and mind to it," he continued. "But it's likely that you know someone who is without a high school diploma. Reach out and tell him or her that it is possible and be their source of inspiration – and that will make all the difference. For some people, that is what they need – someone in their corner for support. And you can do it because you have helped to pave the way for others."

Gilleland reminded graduates and their families that life gives you moments that you cannot recapture. "And there is one thing you can never get back – time. You can lose a job and get another. You can lose money and make more. Yes, you can lose friends and meet others. But you never get back time."

He then encouraged everyone to live their life to the fullest.

"Be a change agent and make a difference – but in the way you see fit. You see, no footprint you leave is too big or too small. Find your passion – that which gives you goose bumps, or that awesome feeling in your stomach when the roller coaster takes a steep drop – find your passion and live it each day. You do that and all of the hard work that led you to be here tonight will be worth it, and the closing chapter of your book – your road traveled in life – will not end with regret."

Raylen Eggleston stepped up to the podium to be the class student speaker. The Lexington Park resident congratulated her fellow graduates and shared her pride in all of them.

"I have seen first-hand how challenging the road to success can be," Eggleston said. "I was 17 with a 3.8 GPA when I had dropped out. I had a quarter of a school year left in my senior year. I was freshly married and I had just signed myself into a new high school. A few months went by and I was trying to balance the bills of adult life and the schoolwork from high school. I was looking for a job but I just couldn't balance everything and we were already behind on rent so I chose to work instead of finishing school. There are plenty of times I regretted that decision but at the same point if it wasn't for me going through all of that I would not be standing here today."

Eggleston shared how nervous she was

to sign up for the Adult Education Program, but when she aced her very first test, she got her confidence back. "I was so excited I scheduled all my other tests that day!" she laughed. "The next few weeks were just working and studying and taking tests. And once I passed all my tests I was set up with a transition specialist to talk to them about the best route to take. I was originally thinking of going into law but I decided that I believe psychology would better suit me. I still have many pieces to the puzzle to put together but that's life. This is a bridge to your success."

She also thanked CSM staff. "This program is a great tool that helps a lot of people," she said. "People who originally did not see the light at the end of the tunnel start to see a slight glimmer as time goes on in this program. This program gives people a chance that they never thought they would have. The staff that are involved with this program are amazing; they truly care and want the best for every student they meet. I truly aspire to be like them. They are so caring and have the biggest hearts."

Jason Reed, of Chesapeake Beach, agreed. "I can't thank CSM enough for helping people who couldn't see success in themselves," Reed said.

Reed shared that he has been working in construction his whole life, and while acknowledging it is not a bad profession, it wasn't his dream job. His dream career was to work on the trains at Amtrak – and he got that very job as soon as he got his high school diploma.

"My advice to anyone out there who may not have completed high school is to never give up," Reed said. "I started this process in 2015 and I failed the math test three times, but CSM kept helping me and eventually I did it. Never, ever give up."

For Stephanie Boothe, watching her daughter walk across the stage after receiving her high school diploma was emotional.

"I am just so proud she followed through," she said of her daughter Ashely, who plans to pursue her degree with CSM as a full-time student next semester. "I love her so much and that her daughter – my granddaughter – Braelynn will see her walk across the stage means so much to all of us."

The graduates who participated in the Fall 2021 Adult Education Program Graduation Ceremony are:

Kayla Armstrong, Ana Claros Alvarez, Ashley Boothe, Jeremy Bowie, Maria Castillo, Shalena Critchlow, Sarah DeFalco, Raylen Eggleston, Isaiah Foote, Nathanael Gish, Joshua Goldberg, Grace James, Bryon Leach, Miceala Lewis, Emily Logan, mber McCrobie, Darian Mehaffie, Shree Morgan, Jeremy Nicely, Callie Proctor, Jason Reed, Jasmine Rolon, Janelle Simpkins, m, Antoinette Taylor, Psalms Wilson and Yotzin Yanez.

Press Release from CSM.

Sell it - Buy it at Auction

Tri County Livestock Auction
1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM
Located Off MD Rt. 6 West – Charlotte Hall, MD
(closest physical address is 9033 Glock Place – Look for auction sign at entrance)

Southern Maryland Farm & Country Christmas Auction
SATURDAY, DEC. 4th, 9 am
Westfield Farm Arena
26689 Laurel Grove Rd.
Mechanicsville, MD
(across from Apple Basket Country Store)

Live Evergreen Wreaths, Centerpieces & Decorations; Poinsettias; New Handcrafted Quilts; New Indoor/Outdoor Furniture/Crafts; Misc. Items/Toys and More

AUCTION PREVIEW & EARLY BIDDER REGISTRATION
FRIDAY, DEC. 3rd from 3 – 7 pm
Food & Refreshments provided by Bailey's (Bill & Kim).
Also featuring McKay's Stuffed Ham Sandwiches and Missy's "Fry Pies".

www.FarrellAuctionService.com

301.904.3402

NAA Auctioneer

Farrell AUCTION SERVICE

Pianist Brian Ganz Continues Noon Concert Series

Features an Episode of Musical Gardening



Pianist Brian Ganz will continue his popular noon concert series on November 22 in St. Mary's Hall at St. Mary's College of MD.

St. Mary's College of MD Musician-in-Residence Brian Ganz will continue his popular noon PianoTalk series live and in person on Monday, November 22. He will present an episode of "Musical Gardening," in which he plays early works of Romantic composer Fryderyk Chopin and follows them with more mature works in the same genre, demonstrating the composer's growth process. This episode will feature polonaises, beginning with the virtually unknown Polonaise in D minor, Op. 71, No. 1 and culminating in the great "Heroic" Polonaise in A-flat major, Op. 53. The PianoTalk, which will take place in the Auerbach Auditorium of St. Mary's Hall on the college campus, is free and open to all who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. For more information about the concert call (240) 895-4498 or visit <http://bit.ly/2YCPDKS>.

Off-campus visitors must be able to present proof of vaccination upon request by College officials when attending indoor events. If campus visitors are not vaccinated or cannot show proof of vaccination, they must present proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival to campus. Face coverings must be always worn indoors.

"I'm very excited to be able to share unknown works of Chopin," pianist Ganz said recently. "Chopin is probably the most beloved composer of piano music who ever lived, and yet there are works of his that even Chopin lovers do not know at all. His Polonaise in D minor, Op. 71, No. 1 is such a work. I'll talk about its charms, play it, and then explore his transformation into the genius who composed the blockbusters like the A major Polonaise, Op. 40, No. 1 and the great 'Heroic.' Then I'll play those perennial favorites too."

Ganz has appeared as soloist with such orchestras as the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the National Philharmonic, the Baltimore and the National Symphonies, the City of London Sinfonia, and L'Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo. He has performed in many of the world's major concert halls and has played under the baton of such conductors as Leonard Slatkin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Pinchas Zukerman, Jerzy Semkow and Yoel Levi. A critic for La Libre Belgique wrote of Ganz's work: "We don't have the words to speak of this fabulous musician who lives music with a generous urgency and brings his public into a state of intense joy."

Submitted Story

Hearth and Home Returns to St. Mary's City



Hearth and Home in Early Maryland will take place at Historic St. Mary's City on Friday, November 26 and Saturday, November 27, 2021. Guests are invited to take part in activities and learn about the different cultures that inhabited the area. Those contributing a non-perishable food item will receive a \$1 discount off admission benefiting the Southern Maryland Food Bank.

Visit *Hearth and Home* at Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) on November 26 and 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., where you and your family can explore the skills that allowed people over three hundred years ago to weather the cold and survive.

The annual event this year centers around chickens and their contribution to culinary appetites.

Guests of HSMC can walk through the outdoor exhibits to take part in many activities and learn about the different cultures that inhabited the area. At the Woodland Indian Hamlet, seasonal tasks include preparing food for winter storage and processing deer parts for tools and clothing. Those visiting the Tobacco Plantation can help prepare a mid-day meal over an open hearth or hear how the English diet changed upon arrival in what was to be called Maryland.

In Town Center, learn how an "ordinary" dinner is made while discovering the businesses "around town."

Down at Maryland Dove, watch gal-

ley cooking of "ships fare," and discover what foods were imported to this area in the 1600s.

Guests are encouraged to lend a hand and stir a pot or two and will be able to take home a free recipe booklet to re-create foods enjoyed centuries ago.

Hearth and Home in Early Maryland will take place at Historic St. Mary's City on Friday, November 29 and Saturday, November 30, 2019. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 seniors, \$6 students, and free for those 5 years and under and HSMC Friends members. Guests contributing a non-perishable food item will receive a \$1 discount off admission benefiting Southern Maryland Food Bank.

Historic St. Mary's City is a museum of living history and archaeology dedicated to telling the diverse stories of early Tidewater Maryland. For more information about the museum contact the Visitor Center at 240-895-4990, 800-SMC-1634, or info@stmaryscity.org.

Press Release from HSMC.

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Tackle Box Fishing Report



Eric Packard with crappie from St. Mary's Lake.

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Trollers and jiggers are finding rockfish in the Potomac and Patuxent.

The fish are breaking on the Chinese Muds daily in the mouth of the Patuxent. The thrash of feeding fish chasing the bait to the surface is drawing flocks of gulls. Boaters using light tackle find the working birds and drop their jigs on the bottom seeking keeper sized rockfish 18 inches or better.

The smaller fish are on the top. Trollers are bouncing their lures on the bottom and circle the breaking fish. Catches of 26 to 32 inch stripers are the reward in the 5 to 7 pound range.

The same pattern extends up the Patuxent with plenty of rockfish feeding on small alewives that are very plentiful. Those not chasing birds are trolling up fine rockfish on the edges of the oyster bars and dropoffs in both the Patuxent and Potomac.

The bay shipping channel has rockfish breaking and trollers catching plenty from the PR to the HI buoys and both north and south of those markers. Reliable locations for schools of rock include the artificial reefs below

St. Jeromes Creek and the Middle Grounds. The Triangle area from Point Lookout to Smith Point out to buoy 60 has schools of hungry rockfish

There are active schools of rockfish in the Potomac from the mouth to the

bridge. Catches are very good. From Piney Point north there are hungry catfish of considerable size taking trolled lures aimed at stripers.

Catfishing is very good in both the Potomac and Patuxent. Both shore fishermen and boaters find catfish hitting cut alewife and mud shad. Some shore fishermen in the mouth of the Patuxent have found both rockfish and catfish taking cut bait at night. The catfish are 7 to 10 pounds with one 40 pounder surprising the surf-casters. We had no idea these big cats were cruising around after dark this close to the open bay, but we saw the photos along with the 28 inch rockfish.

Crappie are biting now in St. Mary's Lake with catches of 20 or more caught in a single outing being common. The crappie will take crappie jigs and live minnows readily. Bass and pickeral are also eager to take lures in the lake.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks from the Calvert County Fair Board

To the Editor

The Calvert County Fair Board would like to publicly thank everyone who helped to make our recent fair the success that it was. It takes a lot of people lending much support to hold a successful event and we feel fortunate that so many helped to support the 2021 Calvert County Fair.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who gave so generously of their time and talents; the businesses, organizations, and individuals who took ads in the Fair Book or brochure, helped to sponsor events, trophies or plaques, and awards or set up booths; Ed Sullivan from the Office on Aging and his wonderful staff for taking charge of Senior Citizen and Special Needs Day; Pam Willey and her Staff from The Connection of Southern Maryland, for all of their help in the afternoon for Senior Citizen and Special Need Day; the Career and Technology Academy for allowing students from Food Production to assist with the preparation and serving food for our seniors and special needs persons; the local contractors who generously provided equipment and supplies; Morgan E. Russell, Excavating and Hauling for providing their equipment for the track for the Horse Pull and Tractor Pull; the many judges who shared their expertise; the local newspapers for their coverage; the local fire and rescue

departments; the deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and the troopers from the Maryland State Police who were on call; Mike Moore for security; 1st. Sgt. Jason Dean and 1st Sgt. Joe Hollinger for working out the traffic plan for Youth Day and county road staff for helping make the plan work; the Joy Riders who assisted with the parking; the Calvert County Board of Education; the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners; the 4-H Livestock Members; Miss Tranquility, Gabrielle Fox, and her court and Lord Calvert, Koby "Hutch" Valentin who were official greeters at the gate; Everett

Johnson for providing and driving the horse drawn carriage for 2021 Miss Tranquility, Gabrielle Fox, and 2021 Lord Calvert, Koby

"Hutch" Valentin, and the additional family members who rode their horses in the Opening Parade; Fr. Christopher Garcia, Rector of Christ Church, for the invocation, and Calvert High School NJROTC Color Guard under the command of Chief Warrant Officer-3 Ceylon Williams, Senior Naval Science Instructor, for their participation in the official opening of the fair ceremony.

We would like to thank the John Brady family for coordinating the Poultry Building. We would also like to thank Gail Hatfield for overseeing the Livestock Barns and thank Debbie Jones and Robert Lee Trossbach for their help in the Livestock Barns during the Fair.

Thanks to the University of MD Extension, Calvert County, for their help in the 4-H and Youth Building and to the Calvert Soil Conservation for working in the Farm and Garden Building.

Thanks also to the local talent groups and individuals who performed free of charge; those who set up food or commercial booths; the County Commissioners for the use of the Hallowing Point Park for parking; the College of Southern Maryland for the use of their parking lot, and to those who brought cans and dry or boxed foods to the Fair on Wednesday night and on Youth Day.

We would like to thank all those who prayed that we would have dry weather at the Fair this year and their prayers were answered as we had beautiful weather the entire Fair.

In addition, we would like to thank those who proudly brought their exhibits, for without exhibits, we wouldn't have a county fair.

Last, but certainly, not least, we thank all of those who came and joined in the fun. We hope to see you back again next year!

Carol Lee,
President

Calvert Community Calendar

To submit your event listing to go in our Community Calendar, please email timescalendar@countytimes.net with the listing details by 12 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication.

Thursday, November 18

Transfer Thursdays

College of Southern Maryland, 1 a.m., Zoom.

CSM hosts transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Representatives from two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. <https://www.csmd.edu/student-services/transfer-services/transfer-fairs/index.html>.

Little Minnows

Calvert Marine Museum, 10:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

For preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult. Join us for story time and a take away craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme: Waterman - Where Are the Oysters?

Saturday, November 20

Benny Morgan Recital Series

CSM, Julie Detweiler, 3 – 5 p.m. Zoom.

Known for performing “with flair,” clarinetist and educator Dr. Julie Detweiler is an adjunct instructor at Florida State University and regularly performs with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra. She is also a founding member of Ensemble Apricity, a Tallahassee-based oboe-clarinet duo. Detweiler is a Vandoren Artist-Clinician. RSVP to access Zoom information. Free. <https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/2021/11/benny-morgan-julie-detweiler>.

html.

CBTC Fall Craft Fair

Church by the Chesapeake, 3255 Broomes Island Rd, Port Republic, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Join us for a great day of shopping hand made crafts from local artisans. Concessions and baked goods(including gluten & dairy free) will be available for purchase.

Crafters: 10' x 10' spaces are available for a \$30 non-refundable fee. Go to www.churchbythechesapeake.org/upcoming-events to download the application form or fill out our online form and pay online.

Thanksgiving Pie Sale

Friendship United Methodist Church, Friendship, Md, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thanksgiving pie sale in the parking lot of Friendship United Methodist Church (1 block east of Friendship Circle on Route 2) featuring homemade pies for \$10 each. Fundraiser supporting the United Methodist Women and the church Cemetery committee.

Sunday, November 21

Turkey Shoot

Noon, hosted by Shady Side Community Center, 1431 Snug Harbor Rd.

12-gauge shoulder held 30” max barrel. 410-867-2599

Upcoming

Light up the Town and Christmas Market

Please join the Mayor and Town Council for Town of Chesapeake Beach’s annual “Light up the

Town” illumination ceremony, November 28th starting at 4:00 pm at Town Hall.

To add to the festivities, the Town is offering an outdoor Christmas Market of local vendors providing an easy start to your holiday shopping. Visit with Santa, hear Christmas carols and live music, while enjoying sweet treats from our local bakeries. Start your decorating and leave with a Christmas Tree in support of the North Beach Fire Department. Enjoy gathering with your neighbors as we Light Up the Town for all to see.

Chamber of Commerce Holiday Fun

Saturday, December 4, On the grounds of Calvert County Historical Society, 70 Church Street, Prince Frederick

Join us for this free festive, family-fun event! Featuring: Santa Claus & The Grinch, Tree Lighting (5:45 p.m.) Caroling, Vendors, Seasonal Food & Beverages, Activities For All Ages and Much More!

Accepting Toys for Tots donations

Event Sponsorships are still available.

Museum Store Sunday & Monday

Calvert Marine Museum, November 28 & 29

For the fifth consecutive year, more than 1,700 museum stores representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 24 countries, and 5 continents will offer inspired shopping at museums and cultural institutions during Museum Store Sunday (Nov. 28).

The Museum Store at Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) is thrilled to participate in this signature annual initiative and join museum stores worldwide in offering quality gifts filled with inspiration and educational value to consumers, with all purchases supporting CMM’s mission. This year, CMM will extend the event to Monday, Nov. 29 to allow patrons to shop safely with fewer crowds.

On Nov. 28 and 29, the Museum Store at CMM is offering members 25 percent off their entire purchase, with the opportunity to increase their discount to 30, 35, or 40 percent off their purchase. One lucky member may even get their entire purchase for FREE! Additionally, non-members will receive a special 20-percent discount on both days. www.calvertmarinemuseum.com.

16th Annual Christmas Market

Sat, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at All Saints’ Episcopal Church Parish Hall, corner of Rts. 2 & 4, Sunderland, MD.

Expert craftsmen with sensational gifts for your holiday giving, homemade gourmet cocoa and Glühwein, music and home-baked goods make the this the place to be Bring your red or green boot mug from previous years to buy beverage refills. Rain, snow or shine! Free admission & parking. Proceeds benefit parish & community projects.



LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS
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County Times

In Remembrance

The Calvert County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to dickmyers@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

Laura Edith Pumphrey



Laura Edith Pumphrey, 89, of Lusby, MD, and formerly of Tokoma Park, MD, passed away on November 9, 2021 at Calvert Health Medical Center.

Born September 12, 1932 in Rogersville, TN, she was the daughter of the late James Edward Williams and Mattie A. (Brooks) Williams.

Laura moved to Calvert County from Takoma Park, MD in 1975. She was a Foster Parent, a pet lover and enjoyed gardening.

Laura is survived by her children, Douglas Ferrell of Jefferson, MD, Daryl Ferrell, Kathy Ferrell, Chris Pumphrey and Tina Pumphrey all of Lusby, MD; twenty-one grandchildren; twenty-one great-grandchildren; and four great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Aaron Pumphrey, Jr. whom she married on August 5, 1969 in Tokoma Park, MD; and her children, Donald Ferrell and Diane Harvard.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.rauschfuneralhomes.com.

William Sherman "Pap Pap" or "Billy" Chenault, Jr.



William Sherman "Pap Pap" or "Billy" Chenault, Jr., 72, of Huntingtown passed away November 11, 2021 at his home. He was born April 30, 1949 in Montgomery County to William Sherman Sr. and Nellie Mae (Mills) Chenault. Billy was raised in Wheaton and attended Wheaton High School where he developed his love for racing and working on cars. After graduation he worked in construction and home improvement before going to work for Giant Food Corporation as a truck driver. Following his retirement Billy started his own company, driving trucks and making deliveries all over the country. Billy enjoyed working on cars, playing Texas Hold'Em and slot machines, hunting, fishing, cookouts, and having a good time with family and friends.

Billy was preceded in death by his children Kimberly Kathy Burriss and William Scott Chenault, brother Robert Sherman Chenault and sister Kathy Marie Chenault. He is survived by six grand-

children, brother Rosier LeRoy Chenault and son in law Clifton Burriss.

Visitation will be Saturday, November 20, 2021, Noon to 1 p.m. at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings, 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736. Funeral Service will follow at 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial Contributions may be made to:

Calvert Hospice,
P.O. Box 838,
Prince Frederick, MD 20678;
410-535-0892;
Link: <https://calverthospice.org/>

Darlene Catherine Mosley



Darlene Catherine Mosley, 68, of Lothian passed away November 10, 2021 at her home surrounded by family. She was born July 1, 1953 in Providence, RI to James Edward and Joanne Lorraine (Cunningham) Shepherd. She was raised in Riverdale and the Palmer Parks areas of Prince George's County. Darlene graduated from Duvall High School in 1971. She moved to North Beach in 1990 and lived there until moving to Lothian in 2002. She was employed as a bookkeeper and handled the accounting for Dr. Abbott's office in Prince Frederick. Darlene enjoyed doing yardwork, and watching TV shows, especially the Discovery Channel and shows about nature.

Darlene is survived by her daughter Kallie M. Kitchen and her husband Ricky McDonald of Huntingtown, son Fred S. Kitchen of Lothian, grandchildren Joseph Kaelyn and Noah McDonald and Abigail Kitchen and by her "adopted" son Jose Calderon. She was preceded in death by her husband Stephen Ray Mosley.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Constance Mae Murphy



On November 9, 2021, Constance Mae Murphy passed from this world's adventures to the next. She lived a good life and will be remembered by her niece, Kathleen Flanagan; great nephew, Joey Flanagan; great great niece, Haven Flanagan; cousin, Sallie Sopira; Simone Phebus, her partner in crime, along with Simone's husband, Donnie; and Simone and Donnie's daughters, Tangie Joyner and Tina Ausherman. She was greeted in Heaven by her son, Scooter Baldwin and two brothers, Bill and Jim Flanagan. Her family will be honoring her life at a later date, but asks for people to donate in her memory to the American Cancer Society in the meantime.

Memorial Contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 405 Williams Court, Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21220; 800-227-2345; Link: <https://www.cancer.org/>

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Cris Edward Denton



Cris Edward Denton, 61, of Prince Frederick passed away November 9, 2021. He was born October 7, 1960 to Barbara and Horace Denton. Cris grew up in

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Prince Frederick and graduated from Calvert High School in 1978. He worked for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 99 before going to work as a master carpenter-locksmith and team leader for the Labor Division of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Cris was a highly skilled carpenter-locksmith and had many talents that he brought to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Cris is survived by his sons Tyler and Justin Denton, mother Barbara Ann Pisano, stepfather Noah Pisano, father Horace Lee Denton, brother Todd Denton and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

A Life Celebration Visitation WILL BE Saturday, November 27, 2021, 10 a.m. to Noon at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings, 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736.

Phyllis Ramsey



Phyllis Ramsey, 78, of Prince Frederick, MD passed away on November 8, 2021. She was born August 31, 1943 to Edwin Hightower and Mabel (Stallings) Hightower. Phyllis grew up in West Beach. This is where she met the love of her life, Page Ramsey. She and Page married in 1959 and moved to Prince Frederick. In 1961 she gave birth to a beautiful

baby girl, Lisa.

Phyllis had a long career working at Calvert Bank until she retired in 1999. She and Page bought a Harley Davidson motorcycle soon after. She studied hard and got her motorcycle license. Phyllis loved getting wind therapy and participating in charity poker run fundraisers. During this time she fell in love with a group of guys known as the Maryland Nomads. They all fell in love with her too and she became their adopted Momma. Another passion of hers was volunteering at the Calvert Pines. She loved helping her seniors everyday. While being there she gained so many friends, which she called "My Girls". They would get together each week for breakfast or lunch. But through it all her partner in crime was Mary Fink. They would drive each other to their appointments, luncheons, or just to get out for a ride.

Phyllis is preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Freddie and Douglas Hightower, her husband Page Ramsey and niece Shari Hightower Russell.

She is survived by her daughter Lisa Meyers and her husband Les, Jr., Grandchildren Morgan Meyers and her husband Justin, Trent Meyers, Amanda Bearns and her husband Chucky, Great Grandson Charlie Bearns, Cousin Barbara Ann, and her many Cabbage Patch kids.

Visitation will be Sunday, November 21, 2021, 11 a.m. to noon at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings, 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736. A Memorial Service will follow at noon at the funeral home.

Following the service, the family will be holding a Celebration of Life at the Calvert County Fairgrounds, 140 Calvert Fair Drive, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

Memorial Contributions may be made to:

Calvert Hospice
P.O. Box 838,
Prince Frederick, MD 20678;
410-535-0892
Link: <https://calverthospice.org>

Roy Wilmer Wood Jr.



Roy Wilmer Wood Jr., of Dunkirk, MD, departed this life on November 6, 2021. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Patricia Ann (Sunderland), daughters Terry Lynn Schleicher (Dean) and Cheryl Ann Lochten (Bill), grandchildren Ryan William Lochten, Sean Patrick Lochten, Andrew Wood Schleicher, Allison Lynn Schleicher, and Katherine Ann Schleicher, and one great grandchild, Jack Harrison Lochten. He is also survived by siblings Franklin Wood (Joan), Charles Wood (Betty Ann), Janet Barna (Jack), Nancy Osbourn (Dwight) and Kaye Peterson (Bernie). He is predeceased by parents Roy Wilmer Sr. and Evelyn Wood (Buckmaster), siblings Donna and Larry, and grandchild Gregory.

Roy, also known as Wilmer to family and friends, was born on April 17, 1936 and grew up on the family farm in Huntingtown, MD with his large family. He graduated from Calvert High School in 1954 and began his 30-year career as an installer and cable splicer with the C&P Telephone Company/Bell Atlantic. Roy climbed many telephone poles through-

out Southern Maryland and was a proud member of the Communications Workers of America. He served in the Maryland Army National Guard from 1953-1960 with his brothers Frankie and Charles. In addition, he farmed land in Calvert and southern Anne Arundel Counties, growing tobacco and soybeans for many years.

He loved fast cars, especially his '57 Chevy Bel Air, and figuring out ways to make them faster. He was an excellent mechanic and spent many hours tinkering in his workshop, pulling apart motors and putting them back together. He restored antique farm trucks and tractors and would take them to shows throughout the area. He was active in the American Truck Historical Society and served as the Baltimore-Washington regional vice president for several years.

Most importantly, his focus was always his family. He was a proud dad and doting grandfather who had an adventurous and mischievous soul. He loved ice cream and bluegrass music, was a masterful storyteller and was always there when someone needed a hand. Although his memory was cruelly taken from him much too early by Alzheimer's Disease, he continued to have a twinkle in his eye. Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association in his honor through the attached link

https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Events/Tributes-AlzheimersChampions?pg=fund&fr_id=1060&pxfid=719885

Visitation will be Thursday, November 18, 2021, 11 a.m. to noon at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings, 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736. A funeral service will follow at noon at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Southern Memorial Gardens, 10155 Ward Road, Dunkirk, MD 20754.

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Or Send and Email to
aldailey@countytimes.net**

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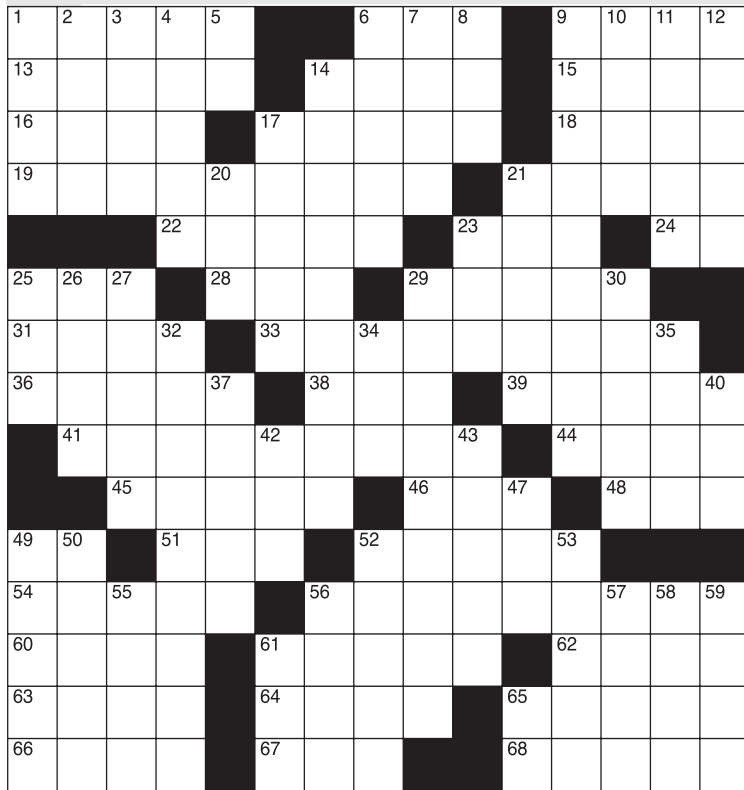
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GAMES & PUZZLES



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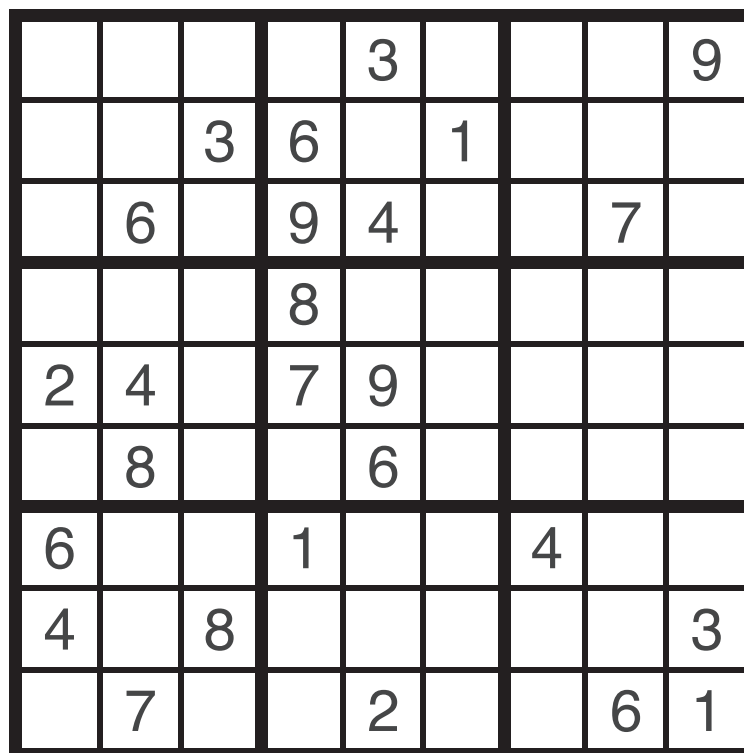
1. German philosopher
6. A type of stock trading (abbr.)
9. Cincinnati ballplayers
13. Deerlike water buffaloes
14. Island
15. Jewish calendar month
16. Round Dutch cheese
17. Unstressed syllable of a metrical foot
18. A restaurant needs one
19. Decent behaviors
21. Groans
22. Works hard
23. Upset
24. A sound made in speech
25. One point east of due south
28. Boxing's GOAT
29. Whittles
31. Tailless amphibian
33. Surrounded
36. Doesn't stay still
38. Copycat
39. Four-door car
41. Morally correct behavior
44. Something that is owed
45. Pasta needs it
46. Ant-Man's last name

48. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
49. Small period of time (abbr.)
51. Woman (French)
52. On or around
54. Fencing swords
56. Fonts
60. A command in the name of the court
61. Sprays with an irritant
62. Georgetown athlete
63. Dry or withered
64. Sign of injury
65. Tracts of land (abbr.)
66. 365 days
67. Physique
68. Icelandic poems

CLUES DOWN

1. Bodily substance
2. Internal
3. Provoke or annoy
4. Type of lounge chair
5. Losses
6. Makes less severe
7. Identifies a thing close at hand
8. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
9. Rebuilt
10. Ancient Greek City
11. American investigative journalist
12. Partially melted snow
14. Take shape
17. Mexican beverage
20. Patti Hearst's captors

21. Jacobs and Summers are two
23. Disfigure
25. Scientists' tool (abbr.)
26. Ill-mannered person
27. Overhang
29. Famed rat catcher
30. Passover feast and ceremony
32. Equal to 10 meters
34. Central processing unit
35. Chinese native religion
37. Unfermented juices
40. "To the __ degree"
42. Frozen water
43. Medieval circuit courts
47. 1,000 cubic feet (abbr.)
49. Gossipy
50. Shopping is one type
52. Palmlike plant
53. Partner to "oohed"
55. Welsh name meaning "snow"
56. Popular Mexican dish
57. It helps power devices
58. Reddish-brown wildcat
59. Impertinence
61. Legal financial term (abbr.)
65. Atomic #52



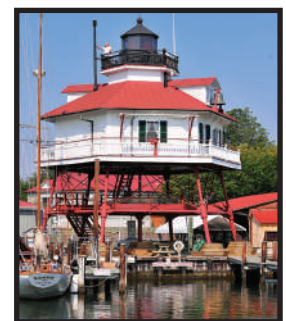
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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